

Thursday, April 19, 2007

House Meets At...	Votes Predicted At...
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	Last Vote: 8:00 p.m.
Ten "One-minutes" Per Side	

**Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.**

### Floor Schedule and Procedure

- **H. Res. 317-Rule to provide for consideration of H.R. 1905 – the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007 and H.R. 1906 – to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to adjust the estimated tax payment safe harbor based on income for the preceding year in the case of individuals with adjusted gross income greater than \$5 million** (*Arcuri-Rules*): The closed rule provides for consideration of both H.R. 1905 and H.R. 1906. The rule Provides one hour of debate on H.R. 1905, equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on the Judiciary and provides one hour of debate on H.R. 1906, equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Ways and Means. The rule provides one motion to recommit H.R. 1905 with or without instructions and provides one motion to recommit H.R. 1906 with or without instructions. The rule further provides that, if either bill fails to pass or fails to reach the question of passage by an order of recommittal, then both bills shall be laid upon the table. Otherwise, in the engrossment of H.R. 1905, the Clerk shall add the text of H.R. 1906 at the end and conform the resulting bill. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Arcuri and will proceed in the following order:
  - One hour of debate on the rule.
  - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
  - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**

- **H.R. 1905 – the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007**  
: Pursuant to the rule, debate on H.R. 1905 will be managed by Judiciary Committee Chair Rep. John Conyers, or his designee, and consideration will proceed in the following order:
  - One hour of debate on the bill.
  - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
  - Vote on final passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**
  
- **H.R. 1906 – to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to adjust the estimated tax payment safe harbor based on income for the preceding year in the case of individuals with adjusted gross income greater than \$5 million**: Pursuant to the rule, the debate on H.R. 1906 will be managed by Ways and Means Committee Chair Rep. Charles Rangel, or his designee, and consideration will proceed in the following order:
  - One hour of debate on the bill.
  - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
  - Vote on final passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**
  
- **H. Res. 319-Rule to provide for consideration of H.R. 1495, Water Resources Development Act of 2007** (*Matsui-Rules*): The structured rule. Provides one hour of general debate, with one hour equally divided and controlled by the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report accompanying the resolution and provides that the amendments made in order may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report. Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rep. Matsui and will proceed in the following order:
  - One hour of debate on the rule.
  - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.**
  - Vote on adoption of the rule. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.**
  
- **H.R. 1495 - Water Resources Development Act of 2007** (*Rep. Oberstar – Transportation and Infrastructure*): Pursuant to the rule, debate on the bill will be managed by Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chair Rep. James Oberstar, or his designee, and consideration will proceed in the following order:
  - One hour of debate on the bill.
  - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.

- Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
- Vote on final passage of the bill. **Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.**
- **Motion to go to Conference on [H.R. 1591](#) - U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Health and Iraq Accountability Act (Rep. Obey - Appropriations): *Possible Republican Motion to Instruct Conferees.***

## **Bill Summary and Key Issues**

### **H.R. 1905 – the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007**

- The District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2007 is a bipartisan measure that will provide District of Columbia residents a vote in the House of Representatives.
- This bill permanently increases the size of the House of Representatives by two members, thereby increasing membership from 435 to 437. One seat will go to the District of Columbia permanently and the other seat will go to the next state in line to get a congressional seat. Based on the 2000 Decennial Census and apportionment calculations, Utah will get the second seat until the reapportionment takes place after the 2010 Decennial Census. The bill requires the two new members to be seated on the same day, and special elections would be needed to elect those members. The bill also limits the District to one member, thereby restricting it from receiving additional seats through reapportionment, even if its population justified it.
- The bill provides for the treatment of the District of Columbia as a congressional district for purposes of representation in the House of Representatives. Additionally, the bill repeals certain provisions of current laws that conflict with the goal of providing the District of Columbia with direct voting representation in the House.

### **H.R. 1906 – to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to adjust the estimated tax payment safe harbor based on income for the preceding year in the case of individuals with adjusted gross income greater than \$5 million**

- H.R. 1906 amends current law to adjust the payment that must be made by families with adjusted gross incomes that exceed \$5 million in the previous year. Under the bill, affected taxpayers would be required to make estimated tax payments over the course of the year that equal 110.1% of the taxes paid in the previous year, or 90% of the taxes anticipated to be owed in the current year, whichever is less. The bill applies to taxable years that begin after the date of enactment. According to a preliminary revenue estimate from the Joint Committee on Taxation, the measure would raise revenue by \$10 million over the period from FY 2007 through FY 2012 and by \$14 million over the period from FY 2007 through FY 2017.

## **H.R. 1495 - Water Resources Development Act of 2007**

- Reaffirms the commitment of the Committee to the nation's water resources infrastructure, to addressing new water resources needs and to fine-tune the Army Corps' missions and responsibilities;
- Authorizes 51 projects with Chief's reports relating to flood damage reduction, navigation, hurricane and storm damage reduction, and environmental restoration, including the navigation and ecosystem restoration project for the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway system, an Everglades restoration project, and the program for protecting, conserving, and restoring the Louisiana Coastal area;
- Includes provisions for streamlining and expediting Army Corps' project delivery and permits and for the improvement of the Army Corps' planning and project development process, including independent peer review of larger and more controversial studies;
- Authorizes the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to conduct water resource studies and undertake specified projects and programs for flood control, inland navigation, shoreline protection, and environmental restoration;
- Extends, terminates, or modifies existing authorizations for various water projects and authorizes new programs to develop water resources and protect the environment.

### **Anticipated Amendments to H.R. 1495-Water Resources Development Act**

**Oberstar (MN): Manager's Amendment.** The manager's amendment authorizes and modifies several Corps of Engineers' projects and studies for flood control, navigation, and environmental restoration., (10 minutes)

**Boswell (IA):** The amendment provides the Rathbun Regional Water Association with a right of first refusal to purchase water supply storage from the Corps of Engineers at Rathbun Lake, Iowa. (10 minutes)

**Rohrabacher (CA):** The amendment permits ports to levy a fee on containers and use that fee to pay for security and infrastructure at the ports. (10 minutes)

**Stupak (MI):** The amendment would ensure that all harbor maintenance is funded based on FY2004 standards, regardless of the amount of tonnage a harbor handles. Current U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' policy excludes from the Corps' budget harbors that do not meet a minimum requirement for the amount of tonnage handled. (10 minutes)

**Blumenauer (OR)/Welch (VT):** This amendment would strike section 2036 of the legislation and replace it with language directing the Secretary of the Army to update the principles and guidelines that the Army Corps of Engineers uses in the formulation, evaluation, and implementation of water resources projects. The amendment would require the Secretary to consult with other agencies and the public in developing the new principles and guidelines. (10 minutes)

**Kirk (IL):** The amendment authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to carry out a small dam removal or rehabilitation project if it will improve the quality of the environment or is in the public interest. It requires a non-Federal cost-share of 35% for any construction and 100% for operation and maintenance. It authorizes \$25,000,000 for this program with no more than \$5,000,000 to be used for any one project., (10 minutes)

### **Quote of the Day**

“The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.” President Lyndon B. Johnson (1908-1973)

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